

Remarks

The Office Action notes that claims 1-12 are pending in the application of which claims 1-6 were withdrawn from consideration subject to a restriction requirement. By this response claims 7, 10 and 12 have been amended, claims 13-19 have been added, support for the amendments and the added claims can be found throughout the originally filed specification, claims and drawings. Therefore, no new matter has been added. Claims 1-19 are now pending with claims 7-19 under consideration.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 7-8 and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schneider et al. (EP 0838841; “Schneider”), in view of Singh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,042,687; “Singh”), Lee et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,288,493; “Lee”) and Collins et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,556,501; “Collins”). Claims 7-8 and 10-12 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schneider in view of Singh, Sato et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,907,321; “Sato”), and Collins. Claims 7-8 and 10-12 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schneider in view of Singh, Tomioka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,897,713; “Tomioka”), and Collins.

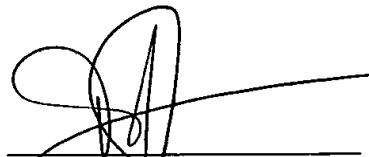
The applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited combinations anticipate independent claim 7 because none of the disclosed combinations teach or suggest all of the elements defined therein.

Claim 7 recites “an antenna heating device applying a heat exchange medium to the plurality of loop-shaped antennas as to heat the resonance antenna coil”. The Office Action directs the Applicant to FIGS. 10 and 29 of Schneider as disclosing an antenna coil 180 and a means for heating the antenna and coil. The Office Action provides no guidance as to where in FIGS. 10 and 29 a means for heating antenna coil 180 is located. Moreover, the Applicants have reviewed Schneider in detail and are only able to locate a reference to a heating device in the description of FIG. 18.

FIG. 18 discloses a heater assembly 270 that includes a heating element 272, which is designed to provide heat to conical dome 130 (col. 27, lines 36-38). The heating element 272 is disbursed between two polyamide sheets 274 and 276 (col. 27, lines 39-40). The only coil shown in FIG. 18 is induction coil 262. Yet, Schneider makes clear that heater element 272 and induction coil 262 are positioned such that they do not interfere with each other, thereby preventing the shorting of the plasma (col. 27, lines 57 through col. 28, line 7). It is clear from Schneider that heating element 272 does not heat coil 262. Therefore, even if Schneider were combined with the references set forth in the Office Action, which the Applicants do not concede is possible, none of the cited combinations would disclose all of the features of independent claim 7. The Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 7 is patentable over all of the cited combinations.

The remaining claims are dependent either directly or indirectly on independent claim 7. Since dependent claims include all the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims, the Applicants respectfully submit that the remaining claims are allowable for the same reasons as given with respect to independent claim 7. In view of the aforesaid, the Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: July 3, 2003

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7-3-03
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